

## REMARKS

The *Ex parte Quayle* Office Action mailed May 24, 2004, has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. The claims have been amended. In view of the foregoing amendments and the reasons that follow, the application is submitted for reconsideration.

### I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 24-26 and 31 are pending. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 24-26 and 31.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-23, 27-30, and 32-36 without prejudice or disclaimer thereof. Applicants reserve the right to pursue one or more of the cancelled claims in one or more continuing applications.

As the foregoing amendments do not introduce new matter, entry thereof by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

### II. RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED IN *EX PARTE QUAYLE* ACTION

In response to Applicants' request for rejoinder of claims 32-34, the Examiner was not persuaded by Applicants' remarks in support of rejoinder of the claims. The Examiner notes that the application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, and therefore closed prosecution on the merits in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*. In addition, the Examiner requested that Applicant cancel claims 32-34.

Applicants have cancelled claims 32-34 without prejudice or disclaimer thereof. Applicants reserve the right to present claims 32-34 as originally filed in a divisional application.

### III. CONCLUSION

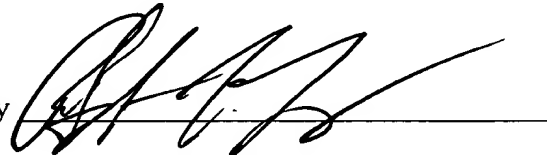
The present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the phone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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